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Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

My name is Bruce Gresczyk, Jr., of Gresczyk Farms, 860 Litchfield Turnpike, New Hartford, CT. I am also a director of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, Waterbury, CT. This organization represents the educational and business interests of more than 200 greenhouse growers in the State of Connecticut.

I would like to take this opportunity to conditionally support the spirit of SB 350, *An Act Exempting Certain Agricultural Vehicles from the Highway Use Tax*.

As language for this bill is finalized, our members in the Connecticut green industry would be happy to be engrossed within that language with the condition that the revenue loss created by this proposal in the Governor's proposed biennial budget not be replaced by something far more unfriendly to our members' conduct of business in the State of Connecticut.

Certainly the financial hardship already established by the Highway Use Tax has a profound impact upon the very slim margins already experienced by our members as they facilitate their deliveries of agricultural products across Connecticut and beyond our borders. Quite simply, we could support an agricultural exemption from the HUT as long as there is no alternative means of taxation derived from our membership in an effort to balance the state's budget in this revenue category.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gresczyk, Jr.